REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-10 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 6 and 8 are canceled. No new matter is introduced.

Claims 1, 2, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Iourcha et al.; Claims 3, 4, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Iourcha et al and Lomp et al.

However, the Examiner has kindly indicated that Claims 6, 7 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include all the limitations of the original Claims 1 and 6. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits, Claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2-5, 7, and 9-10, which either directly or indirectly depend from Claim 1, are also now allowable. Claim 6 is canceled. Claim 8 was previously canceled.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that the present invention is in condition for allowance. And Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any question, he or she is invited to call or fax Applicant's counsel at the telephone numbers below.

Respectfully Submitted,

4/8/04
Date

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